GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6196
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
RELIEF MEASURES FOR RAMAGIRI GOLD MINE
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Worker`s Union of Ramagiri Goldmine in Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to extend certain relief measures like exemption in payment of royalty to avoid closure of mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate goldminers of Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b) The Ramagiri Goldmine Workers Union, Andhra Pradesh had submitted a representation in June, 1998 to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requesting for waiver by the State Government of royaltyon gold ore mined in Andhra Pradesh by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) and subsidy on the power consumed by BGML. The Central Government had advised the State Governmer that the issues were to be addressed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) As efforts to rehabilitate BGML including through the joint venture route were not successful, the Government felt that revival of the Company was not feasible. The Government submitted to the Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring(BIFR) that it would have no objection to winding up of the Company under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), and that the Government was ready to offer to all the employees on rolls of the Company as on 31st March, 1999 the benefit of the separation scheme on the lines of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) package approved for the Public Sector Enterprises of the Department of Heavy Industry.The Government has already offered, in December 1999 the benefit of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to all those employees of BGML who opt for the same by 31.3.2000.